

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00114 070939Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /053 W

----- 103043

R 061345Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5504

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 114

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LT

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT PERCEIVES INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT

1. DURING PAST WEEK RADIO LESOTHO HAS BROADCAST SEVERAL TIMES STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE THAT HE HAS LEARNED OF INTENTION OF UNSPECIFIED GROUP OF PEOPLE TO DISRUPT PEACE BY MAKING SOME UNSPECIFIED MOVE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT WARNS THAT POLICE WILL TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST ANY SUCH MOVE. FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT ISSUED IN NAME OF ALL PRINCIPAL CHURCHES IN LESOTHO CALLS UPON ALL BASOTHO TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD DISRUPT PEACE.

2. COMMISSIONER HAS ISSUED SIMILAR STATEMENTS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN PAST, BUT STATEMENT BY CHURCHES IS MORE UNUSUAL.

3. TWO RUMORS WHICH PURPORT TO EXPLAIN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN HAVE GAINED CURRENCY. MORE PERSISTENT RUMOR IS THAT FOLLOWERS OF BCP LEADER-IN-EXILE NTSU MOKHEHLE ARE PLANNING ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO OVER-THROW THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING THIS VERSION, BASOTHO MINERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AT END OF THEIR CONTRACT PERIODS IN THE MINES, HAVE BEEN MAKING THEIR WAY TO BOTSWANA OR ZAMBIA WHERE THEY RECEIVE GUERILLA TRAINING BEFORE RETURNING TO LESOTHO. NUMBER OF THESE MEN NOW IN LESOTHO IS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MASERU 00114 070939Z

SUPPOSEDLY LARGE ENOUGH TO CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO GOVERNMENT.

OTHER RUMOR IS THAT FORMER MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER, G.C. MANYELI, WHO LOST HIS CABINET POSITION IN GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE LAST NOVEMBER, HAS TURNED AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND IS ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE SOME KIND OF COUP.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY HAS NO FIRM BASIS FOR EVALUATING EITHER OF THESE RUMORS BUT FINDS IT HARD TO CREDIT STORY OF GUERILLA TRAINING IN BOTSWANA OR ZAMBIA. WE SUSPECT THAT INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF LESOTHO POLICE, WHICH IS RATHER SHORT ON COMPETENCE, ESPECIALLY SINCE DEPARTURE OF BRITISH ADVISOR LATE LAST YEAR, MAY HAVE PRODUCED ILL-FOUNDED REPORTS ON WHICH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO ISSUE WARNING. CHURCHES' CALL FOR PEACE AND RESTRAINT IS PROBABLY DIRECTED AS MUCH TOWARD SECURITY FORCES AS TOWARD ANY PLOTTERS.  
HAUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THREATS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MASERU00114  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760047-0703  
**From:** MASERU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760275/aaaacnls.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOVERNMENT PERCEIVES INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, LT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006